THE GALLERY

AUGUST 1983 VOLUME 5 Art Gallery of Ontario NUMBER 6

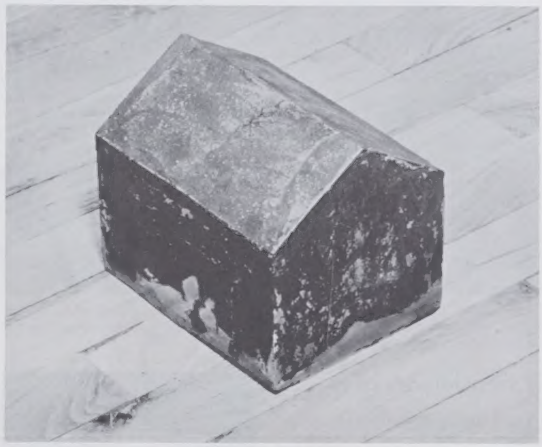
Twelve-Year Survey of N.Y. Sculptor Joel Shapiro

by Marie Fleming

A retrospective exhibition of the work of the American sculptor Joel Shapiro opens in the Gallery of Contemporary Art on August 13 and can be seen through September 25. It surveys 12 years of Shapiro's work, representing all phases of his sculptural and graphic expression.

Shapiro was born in 1941 in New York City, where he still lives and works. He studied at New York University (BA, 1964 and MA, 1969), and has been exhibiting since 1969. His sculpture shows an indifference to the distinction between abstraction and representation, using a combination of both to explore psychological as well as sculptural territories. The work and the space it affects are austere, geometric, and unified in the tradition of Minimalism; nevertheless they also are imbued with emotional tone and meaning.

Early in his career, like many members of his generation, Shapiro was attracted to Process Art, creating works dealing with inherent properties of different materials and their response to manipulative processes. By 1973 he was making extensive use of the traditional technique of metal casting, and was creating forms that fused abstraction and imagery. The forms are simple, block-like, usually geometric, and adamantly small-scaled. However, they evoke familiar, often domestic, images – a bridge, a chair, a table, and most frequently, a house. The forms recur, either expanded, contracted, sliced, taken apart, or recombined. The block-like "house" is sometimes extended by other elements, or chopped in half, or sunk into the floor. Each image is ambiguous (half-abstract, half-representational); the form is dense, compacted, impenetrable; the scale is ankle-high – intimate and child-like, but also distancing and distressed. There are both floor and wall pieces, but in either locus, their small size denies the viewer a sense of shared space with the object. At the same time, their compressed, potentially explosive qualities make him aware of the palpableness of the space in which he stands.



Joel Shapiro (American, 1941–), *Untitled*, 1973-74; cast iron, 13.8 x 16.8 x 12.7 cm. Collection of Gustaf Douglas. Photo by Geoffrey Clements.

In 1976 Shapiro began making small geometric wooden wall reliefs, which seem to offer aerial views of building complexes. Most of them have not been cast in bronze and retain the unpretentious "sketch effect" of material thrown together. Shapiro is not concerned with surface or grain, but with the density of the material and the degree of surface porosity, allowing or excluding entrance into the piece. Most of the wood reliefs are painted. "I found," Shapiro writes, "that certain colours could dislocate the form, could intensify the form, or could alter your perception of the form."

Throughout the mid-seventies, figures (inhabitants of the house) appeared at odd moments in Shapiro's work. By 1980 figurative forms had become a serious sculptural theme. They are large, free-standing pieces, geometric figures caught in gestures – balancing, falling, crouching – embodying the body's memory of movement. Made of blunt standard-sized wood lengths, they have the thrown-together quality of the wood reliefs. Subtle distortions of length and angle of limbs augment a sense of abstraction, questioning both formal and psychological unity.

Shapiro writes: "I'm more interested in how one thinks about something than in what something looks like. I am interested in what a house or a figure might mean, or what it means to me. I am interested in my capacity to refer to it in terms of sculpture, but not to illustrate it or describe it."

The exhibition was organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York and supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. A fully illustrated catalogue is available in The Book Shop.

Marie Fleming is Associate Curator of Contemporary Art.

Harry Callahan's Vision Revealed

by Maia-Mari Sutnik

Harry Callahan's photography spans a period of 45 years, during which he has been influential both as an artist and a teacher. Callahan's world and vision are represented in a retrospective exhibition of over 130 photographs, on view in the Margaret Eaton Gallery from August 27 to October 16.

A photographer of remarkable private sensibilities, Callahan's images mediate between a lyrical perception of conscious life and the disclosure of a darker inner core of unplanned discoveries. Callahan records subjects that are intimate or close at hand – his wife Eleanor, his daughter Barbara, the architecture of cities in which he has lived, the movement of people on the streets, and the details of nature into which he would retreat. They represent his responses to the quality of his life, and unify his life and his art.

Callahan was born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1912. He began to take photographs as an enthusiastic amateur in 1938, but a meeting with Ansel Adams in 1941 provided Callahan with the confidence to free himself creatively. He began to pursue images expressing clarity of tone, texture, and light, exploring formal structures and the camera's inherent qualities. In 1946 he joined the faculty of Chicago Institute of Design, and in association with László Moholy-Nagy, Aaron Siskind, Hugo Weber, Mies van der Rohe, and others, he contributed to the innovative spirit of its teaching programs. The assimilation of varied techniques intensified his subjects and extended the vocabulary of the medium, toward the personally expressive. Callahan's own experiments with multiple exposures in the camera, distortive lenses, varying foci, high contrast, and soft, flat light provided the opportunity for precisely controlled formal concepts, as well as for intuitive decisions. His unique vision of the purity of realism and his experimentation culminated in series and thematic sequences.

Eleanor, Chicago, 1949; silver print, 38.1 x 45.7 cm. Hallmark Photographic Collection.

Callahan's studies of Eleanor are the primary inspiration of his art. She often emerges as dark and mysterious, but also as the comforter in a domestic world. Eternally feminine, she brings rich archetypal meanings to images, and her presence is a catalyst for the transformation of the natural world onto a mythic level of existence.

Callahan's dependence on his daily life as subject matter was never a limitation. His images of cityscapes and the people on the street comment on the spiritual poverty of a man-made world – the anonymous and vacuous mood, the hard textures and oppressive enclosures are personal responses to the subject, but they express a wider concern for the urban world. In contrast to these powerful and chilling images, Callahan's landscapes become visions of perfection – the classical balance and refined symmetry of trees, branches, and details of foliage resonate in their graceful lines, patterns, and textures. At the same time they embody perceptual shifts from cool facts to highly expressive feelings. Early in his career Callahan wrote that: "If man wishes to express himself photographically, he must understand, surely to some extent, his relationship to life. I am interested in relating the problems that effect me to some set of values that I am trying to discover and establish as being my life."

EVENTS

Exhibitions

Alex Colville: A Retrospective
Sam and Ayala Zacks Wing
through September 18
The first comprehensive retrospective of the work of Alex Colville, comprising about 57 paintings (close to half his total output) and a selection of serigraph prints from 1955 to 1981. One section of the exhibition follows Colville's creative process through a series of drawings. Organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario to circulate internationally. Sponsored by Norcen Energy Resources Limited.

Joel Shapiro
Gallery of Contemporary Art
August 13–September 25
A mid-career survey of the work of one of the most famous young American sculptors, including 40 sculptures and 15 drawings produced in the last 12 years. Organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Harry Callahan: Photographs
Margaret Eaton Gallery
August 27–October 16
Callahan is recognized as one of America's great photographers. A retrospective exhibition of over 125 photographs shows his work from 1941 to his present colour photography. From the Hallmark Photographic Collection.

James Kerr-Lawson: A Canadian Abroad
Gallery E
through August 14
A major survey exhibition of paintings and graphics by the Canadian artist James Kerr-Lawson, including about 60 works from public and private collections in Canada, the US, and Great Britain. The exhibition curated by Robert Lamb, University of Manitoba.

Recent Acquisitions from Schongauer to Braque: Six Centuries of Master Prints and Drawings
Margaret Eaton Gallery
through August 21
An exhibition of approximately 75 prints and drawings spanning six centuries. All were acquired by the Art Gallery of Ontario since May 1981.

Attitudes: The Nude in Art
Gallery E
August 20–October 16
The exhibition explores the theme of the nude in art with particular concern for aesthetic, cultural, and moral standards throughout the ages. Organized by Education Services.

Permanent Collection

Walker Court, Wood, Fudger, Laidlaw, and Leonard Galleries
Fourteenth- through 20th-century paintings from the Gallery's Permanent Collection and long-term loans; 19th- and 20th-century sculpture and major paintings from the Contemporary Collection.

Georgia Ridley, John Ridley, and J.S. McLean Galleries
Selections of Canadian contemporary art from the Permanent Collection.

Henry Moore Sculpture Centre
Plasters, bronzes, and graphics from the Gallery's Moore Collections.

Walter Trier Anteroom and Gallery
Recent Acquisitions, Gifts from the Trier-Fodor Foundation

Print and Drawing Galleries
Selections from the Permanent Collection and loans.

Alex Colville (Canadian, 1920–), *Milk Truck*, 1959; oil and synthetic resin, 45.7 x 45.7 cm. C-I-L. Inc. From the exhibition *Alex Colville: A Retrospective* on view at the Sam and Ayala Zacks Wing through September 18.

Extension Services

The following exhibitions will be circulated during the month of August. Dates are subject to change.

Chefs-d'oeuvre from the Frederick W. Schumacher Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio
Thunder Bay National Exhibition Centre, Thunder Bay
through August 14

Richard Holden: Arctic Photographs
Timiskaming Art Gallery, Haileybury
through August 15

Italian Prints 1500-1800
Timmins Museum: National Exhibition Centre, Timmins
through August 28

Max Klinger: Graphic Work
MacDonald Stewart Art Centre, Guelph
through August 28

Lupe Rodriguez: Works on Paper
The Lindsay Gallery, Lindsay
through August 20

Sight & Insight: Portraits from the Canadian Historical Collection
Art Gallery of Northumberland, Cobourg
through August 21

"Artists With Their Work" Programs

Diane Pugen
Brampton Public Library and Art Gallery
through August 2

Mark Gomes
Artcite Inc., Windsor
through August 14

Lenni Workman
Chatham Cultural Centre
August 12-28

Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition: Therese Bolliger, Mark Gomes, John McKinnon, Miho Sawada, and An Whitlock
The Gallery/Stratford
through September 5

Johannes Vermeer (Dutch, 1632-1675), *Head of a Girl*, c. 1660; oil on canvas, 46.5 x 40 cm. Mauritshuis, The Hague. From the exhibition, *Dutch Painting of the Golden Age*, opening October 1.

Courses

Dutch Painting of the Golden Age
The Jackman Hall
Tuesdays 1:30–3:30 pm
September 20 to October 25
Repeated Wednesdays 6:30–8:30 pm
September 21 to October 26
This six-week, non-credit course is designed to complement the major exhibition of 17th-century paintings from the Mauritshuis. Essentially secular and middle-class in character, Dutch artists broke with established traditions to provide new standards of excellence in such varied fields as landscape, portrait, and still life. Includes Rembrandt, Frans Hals, Jan Steen, Jacob van Ruisdael, and Johannes Vermeer. The two-hour illustrated lectures will be given by Francis Broun, MFA. Course Fee: Members, students, senior citizens $40; non-Members $45.

To order tickets, please write the Art Gallery of Ontario, c/o the Scheduling Office, Education Services. Clearly indicate the series of your choice. See box on p. 4.

Lectures

The Photographs of Harry Callahan
The Jackman Hall
Sunday, August 28, 3:30 pm
Keith F. Davis, Curator, Hallmark Collections, and organizer of the current exhibition.
Free with admission.

Talks and Tours

Gallery Talks enhance a visit to the Gallery by helping to animate both the Permanent Collection and special exhibitions. Talks range from intense discussions of individual works and artists, to more general considerations of major periods and themes. Topics are available in advance from the Information Desk. During August, talks will be given at 2:00 pm on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and are free with admission.

Special Talks for the Alex Colville Exhibition
Gallery Talks will be given regularly in the Alex Colville exhibition at 2:00 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Group tours are available Tuesday through Friday at 11:00 am *only*. Please contact the Education Scheduling Office for bookings (ext. 200 or 202).

The Grange

Services
A 9-minute audio-visual presentation, "The Grange–Pathway to the Past," is featured daily. A 40-minute film, "The Restoration of The Grange," is shown Sundays at 2:30 pm in The Music Room. Adult group tours may be arranged by calling The Grange office at ext. 237 before noon. School tours are arranged by contacting the Education Scheduling Office, ext. 200.

Exhibitions
Bartlett's Canada in the Music Room.

Wanted: Volunteers to spend four hours a week in the 19th century. Please call, ext. 237.

Hands On

Hands On remains open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm until August 27. Children aged 4-12 are invited with a parent to participate in art-related activities. The current installation draws upon industry for resource material.

THE GALLERY
VOLUME 5 NUMBER 6 AUGUST 1983

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Art Tours

Brochures for the following art tours available on request from the Volunteer Office:

Bavaria, A Romantic Journey
September 27–October 12, 1983
The great medieval cities of Bavaria offer a continuous pageant of history, art, and architecture, especially Munich, a cosmopolitan centre of the arts for centuries. Includes King Ludwig's palaces, baroque churches, the Romantic Road, and the Danube Gorge.

Southern Heritage Tour
September 30–October 6, 1983
Visit Winston-Salem, Charlottesville, and Richmond. Tour highlights include Jefferson's Monticello, the Governor's Mansion in Richmond, private collections, plantations, and antebellum houses.

From Here to Serendipity
(Sri Lanka and South India)
January 27–February 16, 1984
Come with us to a sumptuously tropical island where saffron-robed priests make offerings of lotus blossoms. Follow us to the Bay of Bengal, Mysore, Goa, and Bangalore. We promise you a serendipitous journey.

Ireland
May 1984 for one week
In Dublin city, explore the cultural heritage and architectural character of the city itself. Beyond Dublin are the privately owned houses and castles, which will be opened to us by the Honourable Desmond Guinness, Chairman of the Irish Georgian Society.

Albany and Upstate New York
Spring 1984 for 4-5 days
The Empire State Plaza in Albany, gift of the Rockefeller family, contains the finest contemporary American art and architecture. Visit the galleries, museums, and theatre of this capital city and travel through the Adirondack Mountains to restored homes of early landowners.

Japan
October 1984 for 17-18 days
One week in Nara and Kyoto, ancient cultural centres of Japan, to view Buddhist art treasures, architecture, gardens, and the colourful Jidai Matsuri Festival. By bus and Bullet train to the Inland Sea, Ise Shrine, and a Japanese mountain inn. On to Tokyo for Kabuki theatre, shopping, and side trips to Nikko and Kamakura. Resource person: Mr. Tom Quirk.

Gallery Hopping

McMichael Canadian Collection, Kleinburg
Choose from two dates:
September 20 or 21
Join us for a visit to the new McMichael Gallery, a world-class home for the extensive collection of works by the Group of Seven and their contemporaries and an exhibition of Inuit masterpieces. Lunch at The Doctor's House and Livery. Depart by bus from the St. Clair subway station (Pleasant Blvd. entrance) at 10:00 am sharp and return to same. Tickets are $23 and may be ordered by following the instructions on page 4. A Member may buy up to four tickets.

Children aged 4-12 are invited with a parent to participate in the Hands On program, open Tuesday – Saturday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm until August 27.

ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO

Ball

We are pleased to announce
THE ART GALLERY BALL
and a Special Preview of
DUTCH PAINTING OF THE GOLDEN AGE
to be held at the
Art Gallery of Ontario on
Friday, the thirtieth of September. Nineteen hundred and eighty-three

Black or white tie

Two hundred and fifty dollars per person

Invitations and further information can be obtained
by phoning the Volunteer Office at 977-0414.

A project of the Volunteer Committee.

Members' Activities

Tickets for Members' Activities must be obtained *in advance* from the Volunteer Office by following the instructions on page 4. A Member may buy up to four tickets.

Art & Apéritif
Join us each Thursday at the Membership Desk in the Lobby for a talk or tour at 5:30 pm, followed by an informal get-together with fellow Members and your tour guide in the licensed Members' Lounge. No reservation is necessary. For the tour subject, please call the Information Desk on the day of the tour.

Art in the Morning
Wednesday, September 21
Fred Broun of the Education Branch will give a talk and slide presentation in preparation for the opening of *Dutch Painting of the Golden Age from the Royal Picture Gallery, Mauritshuis.* Coffee in the Members' Lounge 9:30 am. Informal lecture 10:00 am. Tickets $3 each.

Special Evenings for Members
Dinner Tours
Wednesday, September 14
Tour this first major retrospective of Alex Colville with David Wistow, Education Officer. This exhibition includes over 90 paintings, serigraphs, and drawings. Enjoy dinner in The Restaurant at 6:00 pm. Tour at 7:45 pm. Tickets $17.50 including tax and gratuity.

Members' Services

The Members' Lounge
Meet for drinks or a light luncheon in the elegant lounge overlooking the Walker Court, reserved for Members and their guests. A selective menu. Fully licensed. No reservations please.

Art Rental Service
From the collection of about 800 works by Canadian and international artists, paintings, graphics, and sculpture may be rented from one to three months. Rental fee is deducted from the purchase price. A project of the Volunteer Committee.

Gallery Shops and Services

The Reproduction Shop
Featuring Gallery exhibition posters, and other Canadian and international posters; fine art, Indian, and Inuit reproductions; do-it-yourself metal frames; museum mounting and framing service. 10% member discount. A project of the Volunteer Committee.

The Jewellery Shop
A special selection of superb designer jewellery in gold, silver, brass, and copper by Canadian and international artists. *Gifts for business:* special presentations, speakers' gifts, volume convention items. Please call ext. 245. A project of the Volunteer Committee.

Art Cart
Will be closed during August and reopen in September with new merchandise. Visit our mini-shop on the Mezzanine for low cost novelty items for children of all ages. A project of the Junior Committee.

The Book Shop
SPECIAL ORDERS are encouraged by our qualified staff. Telephone orders can be processed on a credit card and mailed, for a minimum charge of $3 postage and handling. Deposits of $5 are required for items under $50. For items over $50, half the retail price must be pre-paid. Limited editions require full pre-payment. Deposits are forfeited if books are not picked up 15 days after notification. Delivery: up to 4 weeks from local agents; up to 14 weeks from out-of-town suppliers.

Special orders are processed faster than normal replacement of our inventory of 5,000 titles. There are 37,000 titles available on the visual arts. Any book on any subject may be ordered, and the Members' discount is applicable. All items over $5 are discountable *except* sale merchandise, student texts, and magazines.

Edward P. Taylor Audio-Visual Centre
The Audio-Visual Centre welcomes Members and the public to make use of slides, videotapes, and media kits relevant to art history. They are available to be borrowed or used within the Centre. A free catalogue which lists individual artists represented in the collection will be sent upon request. Two new media kits on Canadian art, based on the Gallery's collection, are now available for loan. For use of video facilities, an appointment is advised (ext. 258).

Hilaire Germain Edgar Degas (French, 1834-1917), *Woman in Bath*, c. 1892; oil on canvas, 71.1 x 88.9 cm. Purchase, Frank P. Wood Endowment, 1956.

Changing Attitudes Toward the Nude

Whether idealized by the ancient Greek sculptor or expressively distorted by the modern painter, the nude figure, both male and female, has been a time-honoured theme in Western art. *Attitudes: The Nude in Art*, an exhibition organized by Education Services, explores the wide-ranging formal and thematic treatments given this provocative subject over the centuries. The exhibition, which appears in Gallery E from August 20 to October 16, is timed to coincide with the 1983 conference of the Canadian Society for Education Through Art.

Brief panels of text, audio commentary, and a slide presentation will challenge the visitor to consider his or her own response to the nude today. Complementary tours in the Gallery and a September film program related to the show will extend the scope of this investigation.

Few subjects in the history of art are more complex and controversial than the nude and our attitudes toward it. With this in mind, the exhibition has been set out in a way that prompts the visitor to consider issues such as the difference between nakedness and nudity; the artist's own formal and thematic intentions; our present-day responses to Old Master images; sexuality in art; personal and shared experiences of nudity and their effect on our reaction to the nude in art. Questions and commentary throughout the installation will help to clarify the viewer's understanding and appreciation of this endlessly provocative theme.

Several outstanding works from the Gallery's Permanent Collection will be featured, including Edgar Degas' *Woman in Bath* (c. 1892), Picasso's *Nude with Clasped Hands* (1905-06), and Paul Peel's *The Little Shepherdess* (1892). There are also some fine examples on loan to the Gallery from private collections, such as Gustave Caillebotte's *Man at the Bath* (1884).

The Coffee Shop
Renovated and reopened with a fresh decor, more menu selections, a new service area, and improved lighting.

The Restaurant
The main floor dining room offers a diverse menu at reasonable prices. Selections of international dishes include Melon and Cassis, Calypso Salad, Vitello Tonnato and Bombe Nelusko. Fully licensed. Call for reservations.

The Restaurant Garden Terrace, Summer View, The Art Gallery of Ontario.

General Information

Admission
Adults $2
Students (full-time with cards) 75¢
Students 12-16 years 50¢
Members, Ontario Privilege Card Holders, and accompanied children under 12 free. General admission is free to all on Thursday evenings from 5:30–9:00 pm. In addition to regular Gallery admission, there is an exhibition surcharge of $3 for the Alex Colville exhibition. Gallery Members are admitted free.

Gallery Hours
Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday: 11:00 am–5:30 pm; Wednesday, Thursday: 11:00 am–9:00 pm. Closed Monday. (Restaurant and shops open.)

The Grange Hours
Daily 12:00–4:00 pm; Thursday 12:00–4:00 pm and 6:00–9:00 pm. Closed Monday.

The Coffee Shop
Open Tuesday to Sunday 11:00 am–5:30 pm. Closed Monday.

The Restaurant
Luncheon seven days a week from 12 noon. Dinner Wednesday and Thursday 5:00–8:30 pm.

The Members' Lounge
Open to Members and their guests from 12 noon–5:30 pm; Wednesday and Thursday from 12–9:00 pm. Open Sunday 11:00 am–5:30 pm. Closed Monday.

Gallery Shops
The Book Shop and The Reproduction Shop are open daily 10:30 am–5:30 pm; Wednesday and Thursday until 9:00 pm; The Jewellery Shop: Monday 12:00–4:00 pm and regular Gallery hours.

Art Rental Service
Open for viewing during regular Gallery hours. Open for business Tuesday to Saturday 11:00 am–4:00 pm; Thursday 11:00 am–9:00 pm.

Edward P. Taylor Audio-Visual Centre
Open Tuesday to Friday from 11:00 am–5:00 pm.

Cameras
Hand-held cameras are permitted in the Gallery but not flashes or tripods. Works of art on loan may be photographed only with written permission from the Chief Curator.

Address/Phone Number
317 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5T 1G4 (416) 977-0414

DONOR CARDS

Donations may now be made to the Art Gallery of Ontario to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, death, graduation or any other occasion.

The person or family to be honoured will receive a special acknowledgement card. Tax receipts will be issued for gifts of $5 or more. Please include the following information with your donation:

1. The donor, your name and address.
2. The occasion to be honoured.
3. The name and address of the recipient.
4. Donation cheque payable to the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Forward mail to:
Volunteer Office
Art Gallery of Ontario
317 Dundas Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1G4

A Project of the Volunteer Committee

HOW TO ORDER

To order tickets, place reservations, register for courses, or request information, please follow the instructions in the Events listing and the following procedure.

1. Write to the *department specified in the Events listing*, Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas Street West, Toronto M5T 1G4.
2. Specify the name of the event, the date, and number of tickets requested, or ask for further information.
3. Indicate your name, address (including city and code), and telephone numbers.
4. For ticket orders send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
5. Enclose a cheque payable to the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Please do not combine requests or cheques to different departments.

THE GALLERY

Art Gallery of Ontario
317 Dundas Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 1G4

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